(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to spread the message?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No "World Wild Animals Day" was observed during October, 1990. However, "Wildlife Week" was celebrated during the first week of October, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

(b) A number of programmes were organised through out the country by the State Governments, which included organisation of talks, seminars and workshops, photography, painting and essay competitions, visits to zoos, sanctuaries & national parks by school children etc. The media was also used extensively to convey the message of wildlife conservation.

(c) and (d) The Prime Minister's message on the occassion of the wildlife week was circulated to all the State Governments and they were advised to give wide publicity to it through the media and by translating into local languages.

[English]

Demand of Foodgrains and Edible Oil

4769. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has placed any demand to enhance the quota of foodgrains and edible oil for 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Orissa have requested for maintaining the present level of monthly allocation of foodgrains (One lac MTs of rice and 50,000 MTs of wheat) under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and have also made a demand for allocation of imported edible during the year 1997 as under :

January to July 1997 - 200 MTs per month

August to November 97 - 1200 MTs per month

(c) Under the TPDS, the annual allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs has been fixed on the basis of average annual lifting for 10 years. Accodingly, the annual allocation of foodgrains for Orissa comes to 426.45 thousand MTs. of which 381.80 thousand MTs is for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and 44.65 thousand MTs is for Above Poverty Line (APL) population.

Scientific Research

4770. SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Government on development of science during the last five years;

(b) whether the allocation of amount has been very low keeping in view the importance of Scientific Research at present;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the allocation for Scientific Research during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the manner in which the Government propose to ensure that the country's industries etc. compete with those of developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The amount spent by the Government on development of science in the Central Sector during the last Plan period of five years (1992-97) has been estimated to be of the order of Rupees eleven thousand crores.

(b) The expenditure on promotion of scientific research has been steadily on the increase. The allocations during the Eighth Plan were more than doubled as compared to the Seventh Plan.

(c) and (d) While the allocations under scientific research are proposed to be stepped up in the ninth plan, there are specific schemes and also policy initiatives in position to ensure that the country's industries compete with those of developed countries.

Travancore Titanium Products

4771. SHRI KODI KUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recieved any complaints about the Travancore Titanium products in Trivandrum, Kerala for the environmental issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued any notice to Travancore Titanium products for the pollution and environmental protection; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Complaints were received against M/s. Travancore Titanium Products that effluents containing waste sulphuric acid were being discharged at the beach.

(c) and (d) The Kerala State Pollution Control Board has directed the unit to install requisite pollution control system and also to discharge their treated effluent into deep sea. A case has been filed against the industry for pollution caused due to discharge of its effluent.

Grants to Academic Institutions

4772. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has been taken for a ride by Premier academic institutions who have taken crores of rupees from it to persue research activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, institution-wise; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) No Sir. Planning Commission can not be taken for a ride because utilisation of grants-in-aid given to Universities and Research Institutions under the Scheme of Socio-Economic Research of Planning Commission, and benefits therefrom are regularly monitored.

With effect from 18th October, 1996, a High Level Committee of independent experts has been set for the Planning Commission's research programmes. The Research Advisory Committee has the following composition and terms of reference:

Composition

1. Prof. Y.K. Alagh, 7, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001. - Chairman
2. Prof. (Ms.) Susheela Bhan, Director, Institute of Peace, Research & Action, 81, Gagan Vihar, Delhi - 110057 - Member
3. Prof. S.S. Varde, 'Kapilavastu', Swami Vivekanand Marg, Bandra (W), Mumbai - 400050 - Member
4. Dr. R. Radhakrishna, Member-Secretary, ICSSR, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi - 110067 - Member
5. Dr. A. Sarma, Head, Delhi Centre, ISI, 7, SJS Sansanswal Marg, New Delhi - 110016 - Member
6. Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Director-General, NCAER, Parisila Bhavan, 11, I.P. Estate, New Delhi - 110002 - Member
7. Dr. Bimal Jalan, Member Secretary (PC) - Member
8. Prof. S.R. Hashim, Member (PC) - Member
9. Dr. J.S. Bajaj, Member (PC) - Member
10. Sh. N. Parthasarthy, JS & FA (PC) - Member
11. Sh. Shailendra Sharma, Joint Adviser (PC) - Member Secretary

Terms of Reference

(i) To identify areas of research essential for planning, identify scholars and institutions for undertaking research in these areas, get appropriate research projects formulated and process them for approval for financing by the Planning Commission;

(ii) To examine research study proposals received from institutions/scholars on their own in areas relevant to planning and advise on their suitability for financing by the Planning commission;

(iii) To advise on the research programmes that are financed in various research institutions by recurring block grants from the Planning Commission i.e., those in the Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune and the Department of Economics, Bombay University, Bombay, etc;

(iv) To advise on the training and research-cum-training programmes organised in different research institutions with financial assistance from the Planning Commission;

(v) To consider the research programme of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research with a view to dovetailing it with the other research studies sponsored by the Planning Commission.

(vi) To advise on the suitability of the completed studies for publication with financial assistance from the Planning Commission;